

Biographical Data

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas 77058



National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

NAME: Phil West

TITLE: Deputy Director of Education, NASA Johnson Space Center

BIRTHPLACE: Cincinnati, Ohio

EDUCATION: West graduated from Purdue University in 1988 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering and received a master's degree in Physical Sciences from University of Houston, Clear Lake in 1993.

RESIDENCE: Houston, TX

MARITAL STATUS: Married

CHILDREN: One

SPECIAL HONORS AND AWARDS:

Astronaut Office Silver Snoopy Award - For work on Spacewalk tools; NASA Best National TV Debut, 1998; NASA JSC Certificate of Commendation, September 1997, for work managing the Spacewalk Tool Team for the ISS; Telly Award Finalist; various Special Act and Performance Awards.

EXPERIENCE:

Phil West began working at NASA's Johnson Space Center (JSC) in 1984 as a Cooperative Education student from Purdue University. He accepted a permanent position in 1988, focusing on Extravehicular Activity (EVA), or "spacewalk" hardware. That year, he was assigned as the lead engineer for the Advanced Space Suit Technology Evaluation Program.

This effort focused on testing the components of NASA's AX-5 and Mark 3 high-pressure space suits for the selection of a hybrid, next-generation space suit. More recently, West managed a project team that designed and built tools for use by spacewalking astronauts outside the International Space Station (ISS). Many of those tools, from small hand tools to space-cranes and carts are now on-board the orbiting outpost and have been used to help it grow from a fledgling spacecraft in 1998 to the large operational platform it is today.

After 10 years engineering spacewalk gear, West moved to the communications field, where he has written, hosted, and co-produced some of NASA's educational TV programming, been a NASA spokesperson to the media and public and served as a technical and production liaison for documentaries, feature films, science center and theme park attractions.

Through various projects, West has gained additional insight on spaceflight as a test conductor and test subject in NASA's zero gravity aircraft and neutral buoyancy facilities, and as a test subject in air bearing floor and vacuum chamber facilities. This has included work on NASA's next generation of spacesuits that could be used for a return to the Moon or for exploring the surface of Mars, and tests in simulated Martian and lunar gravity fields.

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